

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for transmitting user equipment specific update control information from a base station to a user equipment in a cellular communication system; the apparatus comprising:

a processor ~~for combining that combines~~ user equipment specific update control information for a plurality of user equipment to generate combined user equipment specific update control information;

an encode processor ~~for jointly encoding that encodes~~ the combined user equipment specific update control information for at least two of the plurality of user equipment, ~~wherein forward error correction coding is applied to the combined user equipment specific update control information for the plurality of user equipment~~; and

a transmitter ~~for transmitting the jointly that transmits~~ the encoded combined user equipment specific update control information ~~in a common physical control channel received by the plurality of user equipment in a single allocation of transmission resource.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transmitter is operable to transmit the encoded combined user equipment specific update control information in a single allocation of transmission resource that is a time slot.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transmitter is operable to transmit the encoded combined user equipment specific update control information in a single allocation of transmission resource that is a single time code frequency resource allocation unit.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the encode processor for ~~jointly~~-encoding ~~is operable to jointly encode~~ ~~encodes~~ user equipment specific update control information associated with all user equipment of the plurality of user equipment.

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user equipment specific update control information comprises a plurality of parameters each having a number of possible values, and wherein the encode processor for ~~jointly~~-encoding ~~is operable to encode~~ ~~encodes~~ the plurality of parameters by encoding a combined parameter having a combined number of possible values equal to the product of the number of possible values of the plurality of parameters.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user equipment specific update control information comprises power control information.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user equipment specific update control information comprises synchronisation information.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user equipment specific update control information comprises only synchronisation information.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user equipment specific update control information is associated with an uplink channel from each of the plurality of user equipment.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a controller for setting a transmit power for the ~~single allocation of transmission resource~~ encoded combined user equipment specific update control information in response to a transmit power requirement of the plurality of user equipment.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transmitter ~~is capable of transmitting~~ transmits position information indicative of a position of user equipment specific update control information for a first user equipment.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user equipment specific update control information is control information associated with High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) service.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the user equipment specific update control information is associated with an uplink dedicated physical channel (DPCH) of the HSDPA downlink packet data service.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the encode processor for jointly encoding ~~is operable to encode~~ encodes the combined user equipment

specific update control information by using processing algorithms of a group of algorithms used by a plurality of services.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cellular communication system is a Time Division Duplex (TDD) cellular communication system.

Claim 18 (Original): An apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein the cellular communication system is the UTRA (UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunication System) Terrestrial Radio Access) TDD cellular communication system specified by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein the user equipment specific update control information consists of Transmit Power Control (TPC) and Synchronisation Shift (SS) data.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a processor for determining a transmit power of the ~~single allocation of transmission resource encoded combined user equipment specific update control information~~ in response to a number of user equipment for which the ~~single allocation of transmission resource encoded combined user equipment specific update control information~~ comprises user equipment specific update control information.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a processor for determining an encoding process for the ~~single allocation of transmission~~

~~resource-encoded combined user equipment specific update control information~~ in response to a number of user equipment for which the ~~single allocation of transmission resource-encoded combined user equipment specific update control information~~ comprises user equipment specific update control information.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ~~single allocation of transmission resource-encoded combined user equipment specific update control information~~ does not comprise verification data.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transmitter for transmitting ~~is operable to transmit~~ transmits user equipment specific update control information for a first user in intermittent single allocations of transmission resources.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transmitter is operable to transmit the combined user equipment specific update control information in a ~~the~~ single allocation of transmission resource that corresponds to a minimum size transmission block of user equipment specific update control information which can be transmitted by the transmitter .

Claim 25 (Previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the apparatus is a base station.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A user equipment for receiving user equipment specific update control information from a base station in a cellular communication system; the user equipment comprising:

a receiver for receiving a single allocation of transmission resource comprising jointly that receives encoded combined user equipment specific update control information for at least two of ~~the~~a plurality of user equipment in a common physical control channel received by the plurality of user equipment:

a decoder that decodes the combined user equipment specific update control information, wherein the decoding comprises forward error correction decoding; and

a processor for determining that determines user specific update information for the user equipment from the single allocation of transmission resource encoded combined user equipment specific update control information.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A user equipment as claimed in claim 26 wherein the processor is ~~arranged to decode~~ decodes the jointly encoded combined user equipment specific update control information and select the user equipment specific update control information for the user equipment.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A cellular communication system comprising a first apparatus ~~for transmitting~~ that transmits user equipment specific information from a base station to a user equipment, the first apparatus comprising:

a processor for combining that combines user equipment specific update control information for a plurality of user equipment to generate combined user equipment specific information,

an encode processor for jointly encoding that encodes the combined user equipment specific update control information for at least two of the plurality of user equipment, wherein forward error correction coding is applied to the combined user equipment specific update control information for the plurality of user equipment, and

a transmitter for transmitting that transmits the jointly encoded combined user equipment specific update control information in a common physical control channel received by the plurality of user equipment in a single allocation of transmission resource; and

the user equipment comprising:

a receiver for receiving a single allocation of transmission resource comprising jointly that receives encoded combined user equipment specific update control information for at least two of the plurality of user equipment;

a decoder that decodes the combined user equipment specific update control information, wherein the decoding comprises forward error correction decoding; and

a processor for determining that determine user specific update control information for the user equipment from the single allocation of transmission resource encoded combined user equipment specific update control information.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A method of transmitting user equipment specific update control information from a base station to a user equipment in a cellular communication system; the method comprising, at a base station:

combining user equipment specific update control information for a plurality of user equipment to generate combined user equipment specific update control information;

jointly-encoding the combined user equipment specific update control information for at least two of the plurality of user equipment, wherein forward error correction coding is applied to the combined user equipment specific update control information for the plurality of user equipment; and

transmitting the jointly-encoded combined user equipment specific update control information in a common physical control channel received by the plurality of user equipment in a single allocation of transmission resource.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A method of receiving user equipment specific update control information from a base station in a cellular communication system; the method comprising, at a user equipment :

~~receiving a single allocation of transmission resource comprising jointly encoded combined user equipment specific update control information for at least two of the a plurality of user equipment in a common physical control channel received by the plurality of user equipment;~~

decoding the combined user equipment specific update control information,
wherein the decoding comprises forward error correction decoding; and

~~determining user specific update information for the user equipment from the single allocation of transmission resource encoded combined user equipment specific update control information.~~

Claim 31 (Cancelled)

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the user equipment specific update information comprises a plurality of parameters each having a number of possible values, and wherein the encode processor for ~~jointly~~-encoding is operable to encode the plurality of parameters by encoding a combined parameter having a combined number of possible values equal to the product of the number of possible values of the plurality of parameters.

Claim 33 (New): The user equipment of claim 26, wherein the receiver receives the encoded combined user equipment specific update control information in a single allocation of transmission resource that is a time slot.

Claim 34 (New): The user equipment of claim 26, wherein the decoder decodes user equipment specific update control information associated with all user equipment of the plurality of user equipment.

Claim 35 (New): The user equipment of claim 26, wherein the user equipment specific update control information comprises power control information.

Claim 36 (New): The user equipment of claim 26, wherein the user equipment specific update control information is associated with an uplink channel from each of the plurality of user equipment.

Claim 37 (New): The user equipment of claim 26, wherein the receiver receives position information indicative of a position of user equipment specific update control information for a first user equipment.